



## ***'Equitable Access to Higher Education: Making the Global Case'***

***Hotel, Shattuck Plaza, San Francisco 29<sup>th</sup> September 2016, 9.00 am to 1.00 pm***

### **Speaker Biographies**



Dr. Graeme Atherton  
*Director of the **National Education Opportunities Network [(NEON), England]** and Head of **AccessHE***

Dr. Graeme Atherton has been working in the field of access to higher education since 1995. Based in London, he is the founder and Head of AccessHE which is a network of over 200 organisations working on extending access to higher education. He is also the founder and Director of NEON (National Education Opportunities in Education), which is the professional organisation for access to higher education in England. He is also a Visiting Professor at both London Metropolitan University and Amity Business School, London and has produced over 120 publications and conference papers.



Bridget Burns  
*Executive Director of **The University Innovation Alliance***

For the past decade, Bridget Burns has advised university presidents, chancellors, and state policy leaders on strategies and practices to expand access to higher education, address costs, and promote completion for students of all backgrounds. The UIA was developed and launched during her tenure as the 2013-14 American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow at Arizona State University under the mentorship of President Michael Crow.

Prior to her ACE Fellowship, Burns was the Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor for the Oregon University System. In 2011, she led the successful legislative effort to free Oregon's seven universities from state agency status, for which she received the national award for innovation in government relations from colleagues spanning the national higher education landscape at AASCU, APLU, AACC, and CASE.

Burns has been a national associate for the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, and an advisor to the Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS.) Passionate about public

service, she has served on the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, Oregon Student Assistance Commission, Oregon Commission for Children and Families, and Public Commission on the Oregon Legislature.



Ms Vicki Thomson  
*Chief Executive of **The Group of Eight***

Vicki Thomson is the Chief Executive of the Group of Eight, taking up the role in January 2015.

Prior to this role she was Executive Director of the Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN).

Ms Thomson's diverse background covers print and electronic journalism, politics, issues management and the higher education sector. She has an extensive media, political and policy background and was Chief of Staff to a South Australian Premier.

She is a Board member of the Australia-China Council and is a member of the Australian Government's New Colombo Plan Steering Group. She is also a member of MS Research Australia's Leadership Council, a small national group of people intended to help keep MS Research Australia's strategy contemporary and relevant.

She has extensive experience in building relationships between business, industry and universities, and supporting increased academic and student mobility between Australia and the Indo-Pacific region.

She was recently named in The Australian Newspaper's Top 30 most influential people in Higher Education.



Professor Sue Welburn  
*Vice Principal for Global Access and founding Director of the **Global Health Academy at the University of Edinburgh**.*

As Professor of Medical and Veterinary Molecular Epidemiology, Sue has more than 25 years experience working on human sleeping sickness, zoonotic trypanosomiasis and other neglected zoonotic diseases in human and domestic and wild animal populations. With colleagues in the private sector, and Makerere University, Uganda Sue established a Public Private Partnership for the control of sleeping sickness in Uganda averting an epidemic of sleeping sickness. Sue was made a member of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2015 and her research was judged as one of 20 projects of over 7000 considered to have made significant impact in International Development in 2015. Sue has a strong commitment to Capacity Building in HEI and Research Institutions in the Global South and has been awarded over 150 Masters scholarships from the Commonwealth Commission and other donors to support career development of individuals from low and middle- income countries.